

1. Preheat oven to 400°. On a rimmed baking sheet, roast sweet potatoes until tender, about 1 hour.

2. While sweet potatoes are still warm, peel and pass them through a food mill into a large bowl. Add egg yolks, tasso, cheese, Cajun seasoning, salt, and pepper. Using a spatula,

gently combine.

3. Using a small ice cream scoop, scoop mixture onto a parchment-lined baking sheet. Prepare 3 shallow bowls of pastry flour, egg, and panko. Roll each sweet potato ball in flour, egg, and bread crumbs, and place on a parchment-lined baking sheet. Freeze overnight.

4. In a large Dutch oven, pour oil to a depth of 4 inches, and heat over medium-high heat until a deep-fry or candy thermometer reads 325°. Add sweet potato balls, in batches, and cook until golden brown, about 4 to 6 minutes. Drain on paper towels. Serve with Creole mustard, if desired.

## SWEET POTATO GNOCCHI WITH BALSAMIC SAGE BROWN BUTTER

MAKES 2 TO 4 SERVINGS Courtesy of Adrian Vazquez, Chicago, Illinois

1 large sweet potato (about 1 pound)

1 small russet potato (about ½ pound)

1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese

1 tablespoon honey

1 large egg, lightly beaten

11/2 teaspoons salt, divided

½ teaspoon ground black pepper, divided

2 cups all-purpose flour, plus more for dusting

5 tablespoons unsalted butter

10 to 12 fresh sage leaves

3 shallots, finely chopped

1/4 cup finely chopped red onion

2 garlic cloves, minced

1/4 cup balsamic vinegar

Garnish: shaved Parmesan cheese

1. Preheat oven to 350°. Place potatoes on a rimmed baking sheet. Cook until tender, about 1 hour.

2. When cool enough to handle, scoop potato flesh into ricer, and process over a large bowl. Add Parmesan, honey, egg, 1 teaspoon salt, and ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper. Add flour ½ cup at a time until dough comes together.

3. On a well-floured surface, roll dough into 1-inch diameter logs, and cut into 1-inch pieces. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil over high heat. Add dough and cook until gnocchi float, about 5 minutes.

4. In a large skillet, melt butter over medium-high heat. Add sage leaves, and cook until crispy, 2 to 3 minutes. Remove sage and set aside. Add shallot, red onion, and garlic, and cook until fragrant, 1 to 2 minutes. Add balsamic vinegar, and cook until thickened, 4 to 6 minutes. Add gnocchi, remaining ½ teaspoon salt, and ¼ teaspoon pepper. Serve with reserved crispy sage leaves and shaved Parmesan cheese, if desired.

hopped

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